

Page 4, directly beneath the newly added heading "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS", insert the following:

--Figure 1 shows the gelation of aluminum oxide in the gaseous phase into uniform spheres via the laminar flux of liquid out of the nozzles of the vibrating nozzle plate, which breaks the liquid into droplets due to the combinatorial effects of the vibration and the surface tension of the liquid.

Figure 2 shows a sectional view of the ring shaped sector of the apparatus, wherein the  $\text{NH}_3$  gas is introduced from the interior ring with a slot on the outside of this interior ring. The  $\text{NH}_3$  gas is also introduced from an exterior ring with a slot on the inner side of this exterior ring.

Figure 3 shows the spheres falling from the annular nozzles of the nozzle plate through the ring shaped sector between the interior  $\text{NH}_3$  gas inlet ring device and the exterior ring shaped  $\text{NH}_3$  inlet device. Upon arriving in the stream of  $\text{NH}_3$  gas, the liquid spheres undergo intensive presolidification, forming a skin of aluminum hydroxide on their respective surfaces. This gelled skin stabilizes the confirmation of the spheres, such that they will remain uniform upon falling into the aqueous ammonia solution below. The spheres become fully gelled in the ammonia solution.

Figure 4 is a schematic diagram of the apparatus comprising the vibrating nozzle plate, the nozzles, the